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# Easterner, Vol. 64, No. 12, January 16, 2013

Associated Students of Eastern Washington University

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# THE EASTERNER

**EasterOnline.com**

**SAFEST-PAGE 3**







# First Robotics Competition kicks off on campus

By Sasha Kline  
STAFF REPORTER  
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Eastern hosted the First Robotics Competition Kickoff where 25 high school teams came to collect their robotic kits and discover what the competition game for 2013 will be. First's website states, "First challenges young people to think, create and inspire. Working with professional engineers and other mentors, students design, build and program robots for competition." The students began arriving at the Computer Engineering Building on Jan. 2 at 8 a.m. to pick up their team kits containing materials to build their robot. They then headed to Showalter auditorium where it was unveiled that Ultimate Ascent, a game similar to disc golf, would be the 2013 First Robotics Competition game. Several politicians spoke to the audience of high school students, offering their sup-



From last year: Skunkworks Robotics team from Des Moines, Wash., makes last-minute adjustments at First Robotics Competition.

port and encouragement before the competition game was announced. "You're the future of this state, this economy, this na-

tion. My future is in your hands," said Al French, Spokane County commissioner. "When you have a dream, don't let anyone in-

terfere with that dream or deny you that dream." State Rep. Susan Fagan of District 9 said, "What you are learning is going to be appli-

cable every day. ... We don't have a clue as to what is going to be invented, but the tools are in your hands." The Jan. 2 kickoff marked the beginning of a six week period where the teams are to build a robot to compete in the games, according to Christian Hansen, First Robotics Competition regional chair and EWU associate dean of computing and engineering sciences. At the end of the six weeks, the robots are sealed and teams are not allowed to touch them until they arrive at Eastern for the competition. "[The teams] have to not only build a robot, but they have six weeks to do it, and then it's closed to them," said Ken Guidry, mentor to the Medical Lake team as well as a robotic inspector for the competition. "They literally put a bag around it and tag. Then the time that's left between then and the tournament is all the

other elements they do as a team—their presentation and that stuff. So really, this is a four month process." According to First Robotics Competition Volunteer Coordinator Dale Garraway, this is the second year EWU has hosted the regional kickoff and competition. He said there are 43 teams registered for the competition at Eastern, including a team from Mexico. The regional competition will be held at Reese Court on April 5 and 6. The games will be open to the public, free of charge. Winners of the regional games will then go on to compete at the national championship in St. Louis. "I'm sure the teams are going to come up with amazing stuff. We'll see some smart teams out there that are going to do amazing things," said Hansen. "So I'm really looking forward to April."

## Thieves deterred by new lockers

### Crime in URC greatly decreased since installation of digital locks

By Linsey Garrison  
STAFF WRITER  
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Thefts at the URC have become almost non-existent since the installation of digital locks last fall. Personal items, such as backpacks and coats, are not allowed in the fitness center and gym area, but day use lockers have always been available for students to store their items. In the past, many students who opted not to purchase a personal padlock or just forgot to use a lock made their valuables easy targets for thieves. Deputy Chief Gary Gassling estimated that in the past officers would be called two to three times per week regarding theft at the fitness

center. "Thefts have gone down substantially [since digital locks were installed]. I'd be surprised if we even had more than a half dozen last quarter. The money spent on those lockers was very well invested," said Gassling. URC manager Jamie Gwinn said he could only recall one possible theft incident for the entirety of fall quarter. "They weren't sure if they actually locked the locker or not, so almost no [thefts]. It's brought [thefts] down an immense amount," said Gwinn. Currently, all day-use lockers that are located outside of the locker rooms have digital locks installed. Those that are rented out by the year or quarter still have combination

locks. Gwinn estimated that on any given day more than half of the day-use digital lockers are in use. "They're very widely used, it's just getting the education to the people, remembering where their lockers are and what the combo is," said Gwinn. "The front desk staff here at the URC, they're really helpful to people, they'll go track down the locker, get the code. ... It's been really well received." Over the winter break, the URC staff continued to improve the facility by adding two new water bottle filling stations, one located on the lower level near the lockers and one located in the fitness center.



Photo by Dylan Paulus  
Digital lockers are now widely used in the URC.

## Four candidates running for vice provost position

By Lorna Hartman  
STAFF WRITER  
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The ongoing search process for a new vice provost has yielded four final candidates: Dr. Venkat Sharma from the University of West Alabama; Dr. Colin Ormsby, director of the Office of Institutional Research and interim vice provost here at EWU; Dr. Michelle Kempke Eppler from Bellevue University in Nebraska; and the fourth name was still to be announced at press time. Each candidate will be invited to the EWU campus during a different week

and will attend a campus-wide open forum session, where the candidate will make a 20-minute presentation answering the question, "How have you addressed student retention?" These open forum sessions will include Riverpoint campus via simulcast. All students, staff and faculty are invited. The first candidate will be at Eastern Jan. 17 and 18. The open forum session is scheduled for Jan. 17 at 3 p.m. in Kingston Hall's auditorium, but the simulcast with Riverpoint for that time slot was still unconfirmed at press time.

# Student parent struggles to find support for ADHD child

By Libby Campbell  
SENIOR REPORTER  
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Succeeding in school can be stressful enough as it is, but also having to worry about your child's success can make life even more hectic. For student parent Michelle Elder, whose five-year-old son Roman has attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, the challenge is even greater. Elder, a senior studying psychology, says being a single parent raising a son with ADHD while juggling school can be isolating. "There have been many times over the past few years where I felt like going to school was pointless," she said. "Some weeks I would get so discouraged because I got so tired of teachers telling me how horrible of a day my son had, I just felt like I wanted to keep him at home and not even attend class." Elder said she would often find herself unable to focus in class because she was worried about what Roman was doing at school. "If we have a rough morning, I especially worry with my phone in my hand just waiting for the school or day care to call," she said. "Some days if I didn't take notes in class, I wouldn't even remember what the teacher said."

The cause of ADHD is unknown, but it is among the most common neurobehavioral disorders in children, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Children with ADHD may struggle to pay attention, be easily distracted, act impulsively, have trouble taking turns, interrupt others, be forgetful, talk excessively or constantly be in motion. Elder said before Roman was enrolled in day care at age three, she was unaware that his behavior was different from other children his age. "Before he went to day care, I had never noticed how he acted and how other kids acted," she said. "None of my friends have kids that Roman could play with so I didn't know. I just thought that all kids were super active and never engaged in an activity for more than a few minutes." Elder said her son struggles mostly with controlling his impulses, which can lead to "meltdowns." She has even had to leave class early to go pick him up from day care as a result of these meltdowns. She said it can be particularly frustrating for her when she sees Roman struggle with something he knows how to do, like recite the alphabet.

"It is so stressful watching my son struggle in everything from his social interactions to not being able to finish his ABCs because he gets so distracted halfway into them he forgets what he is saying," she said. "I know that he knows them because we have worked on them every day for the past four years." Sticking to a routine has helped make things easier for Elder and her son. Most nights she waits until he has fallen asleep to start homework, which may take until 2 a.m. to finish. "I think that the most overwhelming part about being a student parent and having a child with ADHD is feeling that no one understands what I am going through," said Elder. "I feel like there is nobody that I can relate to. It is hard for me to keep a social life because I have such different priorities than most people I meet. Being a parent of a child that has ADHD can be very isolating." Overwhelmed, Elder turned to the Eastern community to help find support from other student parents coping with the same thing. EWU's Counseling and Psychological Services offers one-on-one counseling and support groups for students, but none of these groups are aimed specifically at coping

with ADHD or other similar behavior disorders. Fellow psychology student Silver Lewis watched as her friend attempted to create a support group for parents of children with ADHD on campus. "I remember her calling places on Eastern's campus, asking them how she could start one, asking them what would be available to her if she did want to start one, would there be a place for her to hold the meetings and stuff like that," Lewis said. "She put up flyers on campus, like in the psychology office for awhile. She did a number of things to get started." Elder said she struggled at first about whether or not she should even attempt to start a group. "I was afraid of people judging me and my abilities to parent my son, but I decided to try to make a difference because I know that if I don't try to speak up for myself or my son, nobody else is going to," she said. "I have learned that I have to be an advocate for what I believe in, because here in Cheney there is no group giving this type of support." Elder said she frequently checked her email to see if anyone had contacted her about starting a group. The excitement at the idea

of sharing her story and relating with others was short lived when her attempt to outreach went unanswered. "I soon became aware of various factors that stop people from joining a support group like this. Being a student and a parent of a child with ADHD is very time consuming. Also, many people are in denial. I still go in and out of denial myself," Elder said. "I think that people are embarrassed to admit that their child might even have ADHD, since it is surrounded by such a bad stigma. There are many people out there that think that children with ADHD are a result of bad parenting," she said. "This makes it very difficult to find parents that are willing to come together and join a support group," she said. Elder said her son's teacher at EWU's Children's Center has agreed to pass out flyers to other parents. She has also recently started working with someone in Student Activities to learn

more about starting a parent support group. Lewis said she has encouraged Elder in her effort to start a group because of the benefits of sharing experiences. "I think just having support from other people and realizing that you're not alone, and that other people are out there that are going through the same exact thing that you're going through makes you feel like you're... not failing," she said. Elder said that even though she will soon be graduating, she would like to create a group that others could benefit from in the future. "My main purpose of attempting to start this group is so that other parents like me will have a place to go and feel welcomed and be able to share experiences and learn," she said. "If you have a child with special needs, I just want to let you know that [you] are not alone in this daily struggle of balancing school and parenting."

## Safest:

continued from front

people," he said. "Once you identify someone and arrest them, it's usually that they're probably the suspects in many more [cases] that we may not have caught yet, so we see reduction in theft, which is one of the big things we see." Nationally, Eastern ranked 170 among 450 colleges and

universities analyzed in the ranking, moving up from the previous year's 222 ranking. "I think there's a little bit of pride involved, obviously, because the officers work really hard to develop relationships within the community, and that's what a lot of it is—relationship building," Gassel said. That relationship allows the community to feel more comfortable approaching

officers about issues, according to Gassel. "We have opportunities to be proactive rather than reactive. In other words, we find out about problems before they become huge problems," he said. "That, for us, means that we're successful in getting out there and being seen, being known [and] being approachable. It just correlates right back to a reduction in crime because people are

willing to come forward." ASEWU President Becca Harrell shares Gassel's pride at the number one ranking. "We're honored to be given the privilege of safest university in Washington state," she said. "The ASEWU organization respects and thanks the EWU Police Department for their service and efforts in keeping our students out of harm's way."

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Police Beat

By Linsey Garrison  
STAFF WRITER  
garrisonlinsey@gmail.com

**Jan. 10 9 a.m. Arson**  
Janitors reported that a toilet paper dispenser in the men’s second floor restroom in the URC had been partially burned with some kind of blow torch. Part of the plastic dispenser had melted and fallen onto the floor. The incident happened sometime between 10:30 p.m. on Jan. 9 and 10 a.m. on Jan. 10. Anyone who may have observed any suspicious activity is asked to contact EWU police.

**Jan. 11 9:15 p.m. Attempted Assault**  
A female student was grabbed by an unknown man while she was walking through the campus mall near the PUB. The man grabbed her shoulder from behind and she ran before getting a good look at his face. Anyone with information on who may have been on the campus mall between 9 and 9:30 p.m. on Jan. 11 is asked to contact EWU police.

**12:30 a.m. Drug Violation**  
An underage student in Streeter Hall was cited and

released for possession of less than 40 grams of marijuana.

**Jan. 12 1:19 a.m. Alcohol Violation**  
An unconscious male student was reported in Pearce Hall. The fire department assessed his condition and found that he had acute alcohol poisoning. He was transported to Deaconess hospital by ambulance.

**2:30 a.m. Alcohol Violation**  
Three male students in Streeter Hall were reported after being found vomiting and heavily intoxicated. They were assessed by medical personnel and left in the custody of friends. They were referred to the OSRR.

**3:22 a.m. Assault**  
A male student reported that he had gotten into a fight while leaving a party at an unknown location. He said that around seven people had jumped him, and he showed physical signs of assault.

**Jan. 13 3:18 a.m. Agency Assist**  
Two male roommates at the Grove apartments got into a fight. One was booked into jail for assault.



Illustration by Vania Tauvela

**Jan. 10 - Arson 9 a.m.**  
A toilet paper dispenser had been partially burned with some kind of blow torch. Anyone who may have observed any suspicious activity is asked to contact EWU police.

Tip of the week:

If you are a jogger, now is not a good time to run on the street. Try to stay on sidewalks, but if you must run on the road make sure you are running against

traffic so that you are able to see any oncoming cars and have the ability to get out of the way if a vehicle is out of control because of weather conditions.

Easterner Horoscopes: for entertainment purposes only

By Kristie Hsin  
FOR THE EASTERNER

**Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18:**  
Your heavy workload will soon be finished, so you have time to finish watching How I Met Your Mother-true story.

**Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20:**  
Your textbooks have finally arrived. Too bad they got your order wrong. Think your teachers will understand?

**Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19:**  
Before stepping out of your dormitory, double-check that you have your room key. Your roommate is unreliable and you can’t afford another key-in.

**Taurus Apr. 20-May 20:**  
How is that web design class treating you? Do not be afraid to ask for help. HTML and CSS can be tricky. Visit Lynda or TreeHouse if you seek additional help.

**Gemini May 21-June 20:**  
Seriously, stop drinking so much. Instead, have a cup or three of tea. Your liver will thank you.

**Cancer June 21-July 22:**  
It's OK to get back into shape and eat healthier, but what you are doing is unhealthy. Scales are for fish, not you.

**Leo July 23-Aug. 22:**  
Don't worry too much about that last game. It was one game and that one game will not define the kind of person or athlete you are. You'll get the next one.

**Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22:**  
Unlike Aquarius, you still have a long way to go before you can call it quits. Keep your chin up and push through. It will all be worth it in the end.

**Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 22:**  
This week, you will log into Canvas more times than you will to Facebook thanks to some not-so-fun math homework. Good luck.

**Scorpio Oct. 23-Nov. 21:**  
Feeling a little under the weather? Well, that's because you've been dressing like it's summer. Take some medicine, get some sleep and update your wardrobe.

**Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21:**  
Can't find your car keys? Trace back your steps and hope for the best.

**Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19:**  
You have some big projects coming up and soon your weekends will be spent at the library. Take this weekend and a bunch of your friends to Sky High. Have some fun while you still can.

THE EASTERNER

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**Writers' Meetings:**  
The Easterner is open for any EWU student or faculty who wish to write or copy edit news stories.  
• Writers' meetings are Mondays at 3:30 p.m.  
• Copy editing meetings are Saturdays at 9 a.m.

**News Line:**  
If you have a tip, letter to the editor, press release or an idea for a story please call The Easterner tip line at 509-359-6270 or the general office line at 509-359-4318.

**About your paper:**  
All content in The Easterner is either produced or chosen by EWU students. Our goal is to provide relevant information to the students, faculty, staff and residents of the communities surrounding EWU.

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The first copy of The Easterner is free. Additional copies may be purchased at Isle Hall 102 during staff hours.

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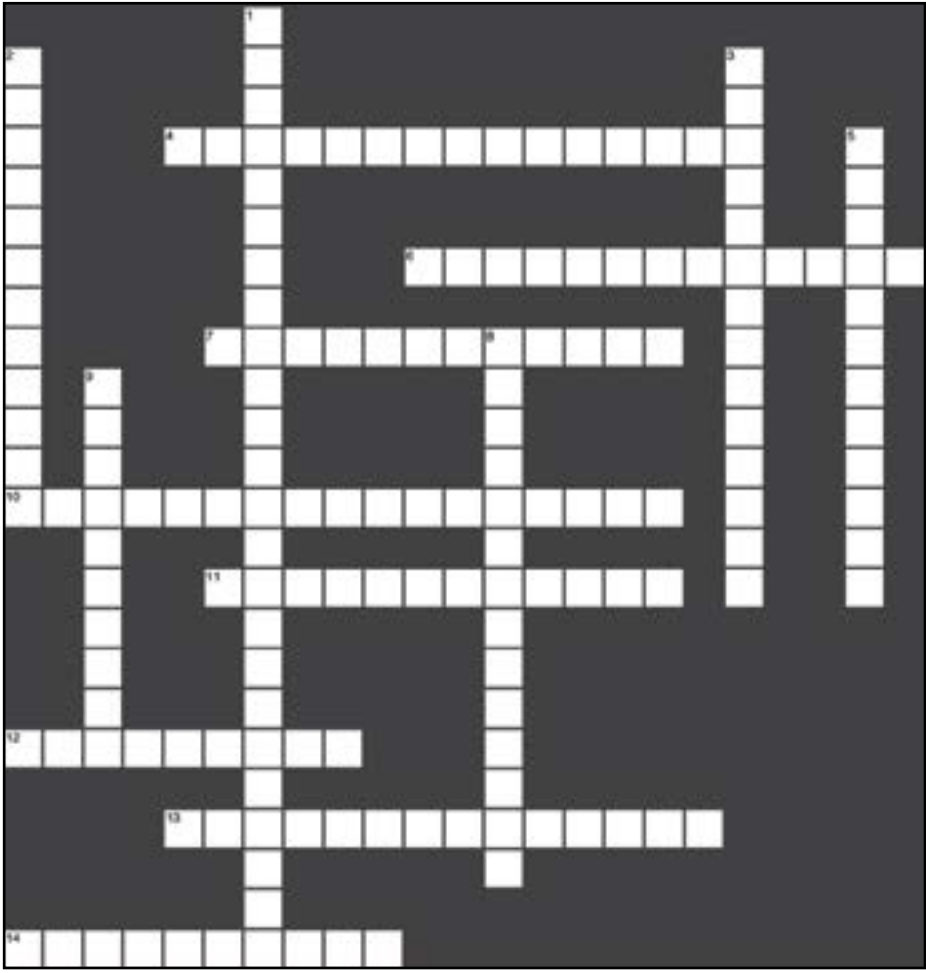
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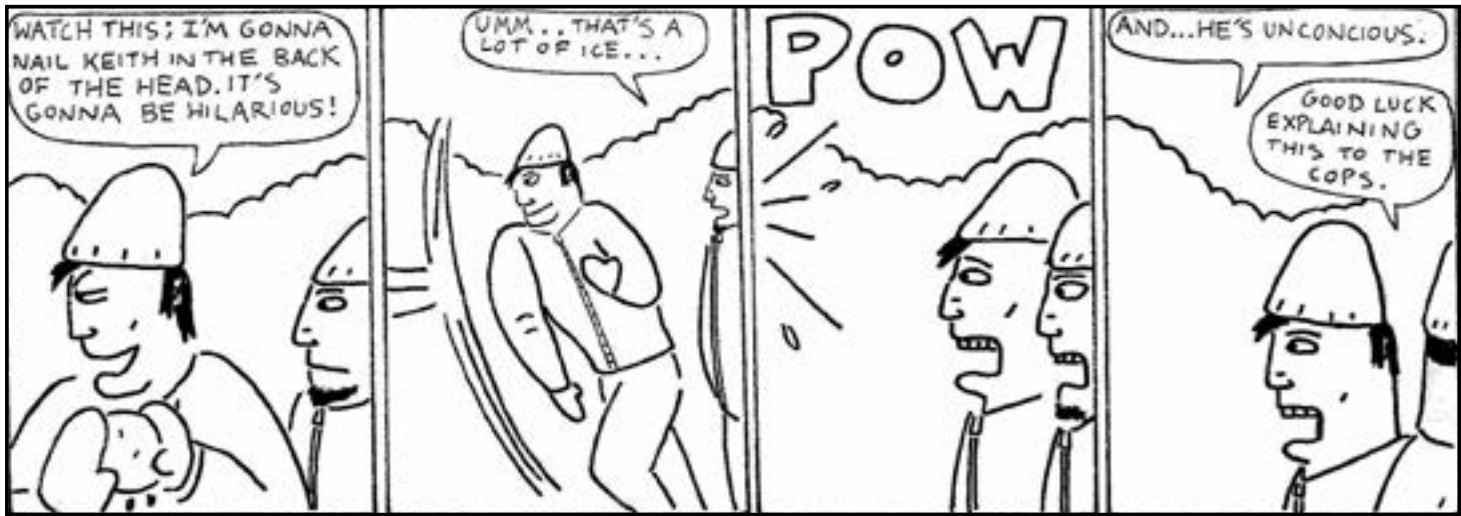
- 4. The season began with a win over Football Bowl Subdivision school Idaho, followed by a close loss against another FBS school, \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Words)
- 6. This four-member group holds practice on Friday nights where they perform various improvisational exercises. (3 Words)
- 7. Award-winning trombone player \_\_\_\_\_ performed with the EWU Concert Jazz Ensemble. (2 Words)
- 10. This drive helps grade school students throughout Cheney complete their education. (3 Words)
- 11. This year, the Big Sky Championship will be different with the addition of University of North Dakota and \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Words)
- 12. Northern Arizona guard and Big Sky Conference leading scorer \_\_\_\_\_ paced the Lumberjacks with 23 points and 11 rebounds. (2 Words)
- 13. The \_\_\_\_\_, a game similar to disc golf, will be the 2013 First Robotics Competition game. (2 Words)
- 14. \_\_\_\_\_ is the new head coach for the volleyball team. (2 Words)

Down

- 1. This regional competition will be held at Reese Court on April 5 and 6. (3 Words)
- 2. Day use lockers that are located outside of the locker rooms have \_\_\_\_\_ installed. (2 Words)
- 3. Items donated from the School Supply Drive will be distributed by \_\_\_\_\_. (2 Words)
- 5. Stateuniversity.com has named EWU the \_\_\_\_\_ in the state. (2 Words)
- 8. Quarterback Kyle Padron and wide receiver \_\_\_\_\_ have both decided to forgo their senior seasons and declare for the NFL draft. (2 Words)
- 9. Gary Gasseling said he believed \_\_\_\_\_ has helped keep EWU students, staff and faculty safe, especially from thefts.

Answer key may be found on page 7.

5 NORTH



JULKA LAWRENCE

Tips of the Week, Winter edition

Linsey Garrison  
STAFF WRITER  
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- 1. Do not wear flat-soled shoes. Instead wear boots or other shoes with tread so that you get better traction and do not fall while walking to class or on wet tile.
- 2. Wear gloves. Keeping your hands out of your pockets will help you balance better and be able to catch yourself if you fall.
- 3. Try to leave your heavy books at home if you can. A heavy backpack or bookbag

- can throw you off balance even when there is not ice on the ground.
- 4. Be extra alert to your surroundings. Texting while walking is always a bad idea, and it will not work out any better if you accidentally walk into the middle of a frozen lake.
- 5. Be careful when crossing the street. Sometimes drivers cannot stop quickly or at all in the snow for pedestrians. Make sure that a vehicle is at a complete stop before stepping off the curb.



OPINION

You gotta fight for your right for grammar

By Davis Hill  
STAFF REPORTER  
dhill.easterner@gmail.com

Much has been written recently about the financial dangers facing America, but I would like to call attention to an even graver threat to our nation. This danger threatens to erode our communications networks, inhibit our freedoms, scatter our military and destroy our economy. I am speaking of word terrorism.



Hill

What is word terrorism? Much like other forms of terrorism, word terrorism aims to spread panic and confusion. Instead of threatening physical harm, however, word terrorism uses misspelling, incorrect punctuation, syntactic errors and discombobulated grammar to threaten our very language itself.

Many readers may be unaware of word terrorism. Because word terrorists do not threaten physical, bodily harm, word attacks are under-reported in the media, and in many cases, those American citizens who do know about word attacks are foolishly unconcerned.

For the first time, The Easterner is able to uncover the truth about word attacks.

In 2008, the President created, by secret emergency mandate, the Federal Orthography, Grammar and Spelling Police in order to protect American citizens from linguistic attacks on American soil.

Members of Congress grumbled initially, but in 2009 FOGSP, in collaboration with British intelligence officers from the Oxford Comma Bureau, uncovered a chilling plot to attack American words.

Members of the New Zealand word terror cell "HAI LOL" were training cellphone spelling "bombers" to send mass texts with

phrases such as "Your rly nice" and "Im ready for piza!" to American cellphone users in an attempt to desensitize them to proper spelling and punctuation. The attack was planned for early 2011.

Thankfully, agents were able to spell check the cell before it could attack, but in the aftermath of the incident, the country remained on edge. In March 2011, only several weeks after the averted catastrophe, the president signed the Zealot Act, which lifted restrictions against federal spell-checking and broadened the discretion of word enforcement agencies regarding the detainment and deportation of suspected illegal words.

However, robotic artificial intelligence spell-checkers have only a limited ability to detect and defuse dangerous deviations in spelling, punctuation and especially alliteration. A 2010 FOGSP report recommended that local government agencies employ human proofreaders

as a final line of defense, citing findings from a 2002 study that suggest that the only useful feature of Microsoft Word's grammar checker is the "ignore" button.

A White House internal report published last month found that more than 70 percent of writers rely solely on their spell-checkers for proofreading. This results in what the report called a "truly horrifying parade of misspellings and other preventable typographical errors."

This sort of thing is exactly what the word terrorists want. They want our churches and public spaces to suffer from typos, misspellings and strange twists of syntax. They want our party invitations and welcome mats to be unreadable.

They want us to omit apostrophes. They want us to use commas to separate independent clauses.

They want us to leave our children's linguistic education to Reddit. We citizens can help in

the war on word terror. We can avoid sloppiness in our writing and speech. We can proofread each other's papers and adhere to normative forms of syntax.

We can also be vigilant. If you should spot any of the following dangerously incorrect words or phrases, call FOGSP or your local governmental word enforcement agency. You never know if they are a secret code phrase for militant anti-language operatives.

**Missing apostrophe in a contraction:** "Im very excited." "Hes nothing special." "Dont glare."

**Incorrect apostrophe use:** "Welcome to the Smiths' house."

**Wrong form of "your":** "Your great." "Get you're socks on."

**Lay & lie:** "Let sleeping dogs lay." "Lie it on the table."

**Lose & Loose:** "What a sore looser." "The dog got lose."

**Using commas to separate independent clauses:**

"We're going to the beach, want to come?"

**Epic:** "That [entirely mundane experience unrelated to acquisition of culturally accepted virtue, which is also unlikely to live forever in song] was epic."

**Ending with a preposition:** "Where do you want to go to?"

**Good vs. Well:** "I'm doing good; thank you for asking." "That pie was really well."

Let us not cower in the face of texting abbreviations and errant apostrophes. Let us resolve to use language carefully and precisely. Let us use words for good rather than evil.

If Benjamin Franklin were alive, perhaps he would say, "Those who would give up syntax for commas deserve neither commas nor syntax." I think we deserve them both.

*Views expressed in this column do not necessarily reflect The views of the Easterner.*

Eastern Bookstore takes change for student scholarships

ALUMNI ADVANCEMENT, EWU

It's the equivalent of annoying pocket change, one latte, popcorn at a movie or a music download. "Give It Up 4 EWU Scholarships" fund drive is asking EWU Bookstore shoppers to round up to the nearest dollar or give up just a little something to provide more scholarships for Eastern students.

The two-week fundraiser, tak-

ing place Jan. 14 to 25, gives students, faculty, staff, alumni and parents a unique opportunity to make small donations that quickly add up to help students achieve big dreams.

In October's Give It Up 4 EWU Scholarships drive in the Bookstore, generous shoppers donated nearly \$900. Last winter, donations totaled more than \$1,200.

The University Bookstore and

Alumni Advancement are asking the EWU community to reach a goal of \$1,500 this month.

The Bookstore will help make that goal easier to reach Friday, Jan. 18. "With your donation of \$5 or more toward EWU Scholarships, the Bookstore will take \$5 off your purchase of \$20 or more," said Bookstore Marketing Coordinator Lynn Grytdal.

More than 2,000 EWU students are receiving scholarships.

The need is growing every year to help deserving students who have strong GPAs while they work at low-paying jobs, cannot rely on parents for financial assistance, support their own families or carry other financial burdens. Scholarships prevent those burdens from becoming obstacles to acquiring a degree.

"Donors like you give students like me an opportunity to

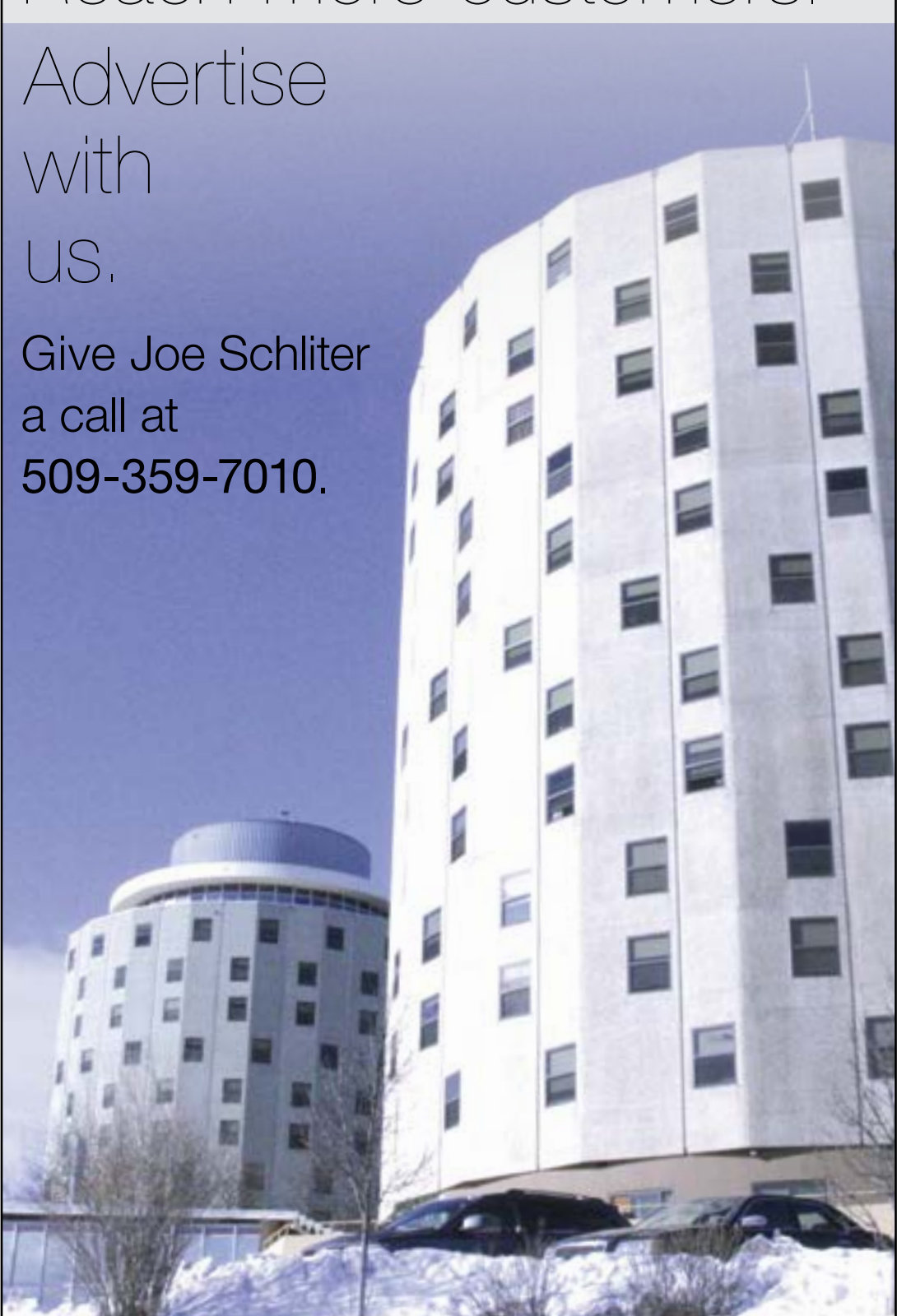
pursue our dreams," a dental hygiene student recently wrote in a thank-you letter. "This scholarship, which will help me pay for tuition and books, will permit me to achieve my goals and maintain a competitive GPA."

When a bookstore cashier asks, "Would you like to round up for EWU Scholarships?" your response will make a world of difference.

Reach more customers.

Advertise with us.

Give Joe Schliter a call at 509-359-7010.



THE EASTERNER

Student Newspaper of Eastern Washington University

www.EasternerOnline.com

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Do you run out of money before the quarter is over?

We Can Help!

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WINTER QUARTER

Tuesdays

12:00 pm to 1:00 pm



Pizza will be provided!

The University will be offering a Free nine-session workshop created by Dave Ramsey specifically for college students!

All materials including a workbook and online access to videos and helpful tools will be provided free of charge.

WORKSHOP

WILL BE HELD IN

TAWANKA 215 C





The Enterprise Middle School vocal group sang in the EWU Theater on the first day of the Jazz Dialogue Festival. They later received praise and advice from Los Angeles vocalist Kate Reid.

# Jazz festival blasts off at the speed of light

## Eastern Jazz celebrates 13th annual Jazz Dialogue Festival

By Al Stover  
EAGLE LIFE EDITOR  
easterner.eaglelife@gmail.com

The sound of jazz filled the Martin Woldson Theater at the Fox as award-winning trombone player Robin Eubanks performed on stage with the EWU Concert Jazz Ensemble.

The concert was the final act of the 13th annual Jazz Dialogue Festival, a two-day event celebrating and educating students on the tradition of jazz, presented by EWU Jazz, on Jan. 11 and 12.

Eubanks, the featured guest artist at the festival, performed several of his own arrangements with the ensemble. Other artists who performed with the ensemble included vocalist Kate Reid, trumpet player Tito Carrillo, drummer Jeff Davis and guitarist Andrew Synowiec.

Prior to the ensemble and Eubanks taking the stage, the opening act was “Jazz At The Speed of Light.” Director of EWU Jazz Studies Phil Doyle talked about the Metropolitan Area Network Optimized Music Environment project. Created by music producer Craig Volosing and worked on by professors Jonathan Middleton and Steve Simmons, the project allows artists on stage to perform simultaneously with artists across the world via video screen and a connection speed referred to as “Internet two.”

Doyle performed a set with Chip McNeill and Jim Pugh from the University of Illinois then stepped off stage as the audience watched Ari Bragi and Eythor Gummarsson from the University of Reykjavik, Iceland, play a tune.

In addition to allowing musicians to have a chance at a jam session with musicians across the world, the project was also presented as a teaching tool. Tim Ziler was one of 1,000 students selected to perform on-stage with the EWU Faculty Jazz Combo. After Tim’s solo, McNeil and Pugh gave the student some advice to help him improve.

Although he was given a lesson in front of a large audience, Tim felt comfortable about receiving the advice from McNeil and Pugh.

“It was so precise I took it in full,” Tim said. “I’m trying to find someone who filmed it, watch it again and work on those issues.”

The first day of the festival gave hundreds of middle school, high school and college jazz band students from all over Washington state, like Tim, an opportunity to come to Eastern to meet and learn from music professors and various musical guests.

After 30 minutes of warm-up, groups would go

on stage and perform a quick concert in front of staff members as well as their classmates. In some scenarios, a musician or a teacher would join the students on stage and give them tips.

Just as Enterprise Middle School’s vocal group was about to leave the stage, they were joined by Reid.

After praising their sound, Reid suggested that the students playing in the rhythm section should soften their sound, then told the vocalists not to take a breath during the “You and I are just like a couple of tots” part in Martin Young’s “You Make Me Feel So Young.”

After the performance, groups had a formal critique. Mike Saccomanno, who teaches at Mead High School and is the director of Vocal Jazz Studies at EWU, critiqued Enterprise Middle School’s vocal group, which he said was an advanced group.

“You see a wide range of people on all different paths,” Saccomanno said. “Some are really advanced and some are much more beginning.”

In addition to the performances and critiques, there were workshops presented by musicians who gave advice to the students.

Carrillo talked about the importance of improvising and challenged the students to memorize notes without looking at the book and practicing outside of the bandroom.

“I’ve been playing this trumpet for 28 years,” Carrillo said. “When you’re hearing me, you’re hearing 28 years of a commitment to practicing and to getting better.”

Nathan Fickle, a middle school student and jazz band student, enjoyed listening to other bands and learning from the instructors.

“It’s always good to know what we need to do better,” Nathan said.

Percussionist Bailey Noble has performed at the festival every year. According to Noble, the festival allows college students to network with band directors and other musicians.

“[You’re] really getting to know musicians close to you and people you can talk to about getting good information about being a musician and gigging,” Noble said.

At the end of the first day, many of the students packed the Showalter Auditorium to watch the EWU Faculty Jazz Combo and the EWU Concert Jazz Ensemble perform with Reid.

For Doyle, one difficult aspect of the festival was highlighting both the students and the artists equally. While the festival was successful, Doyle plans on taking little steps in preparing for the festival in 2014.

“[We will be] taking a look at how we can top this next year, and keep the momentum and every year getting a little bit better,” Doyle said.



Photos by Teri Simpson



Photo by Teri Simpson

The EWU Jazz department hosted the 13th annual Jazz Dialogue Festival on Jan. 11 and 12. Students from all over Washington state traveled to Eastern to perform in front of professors and visiting artists on the first day. On the second day the EWU Concert Jazz Ensemble performed with artists like Robin Eubanks and Tito Carrillo. To see a highlight video of the event visit the link <http://bit.ly/13B6GXf>





# EWU Africana Program pursues dream with school supply drive

By Paul Sell  
STAFF WRITER  
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During the difficult times of our lives, it is important to remember the words of those who have faced hardship and adversity. "Even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. "With this faith we will be able to hew out of the mountain of despair a stone of hope." The EWU Africana Education Program lives up to these famous words every year as they conduct their annual School Supply Drive. In honor of King, this supply drive helps grade school students throughout Cheney complete their education. "This donation drive helps show what our program can do to help out the

community at large," said Lynn Burks-Herres of the EWU Africana program. The supply drive began in 2004 when the director of Africana studies, Dr. Nancy Nelson, started building inspired by King's famous "I have a dream" speech. Because of the overwhelming responses Nelson received, Africana studies has held this drive every year.

"What we get does matter, and we pass it on to those who need it," said Burks-Herres. The items donated will be distributed by Cheney Outreach, a local center that provides aid and assistance. In previous drives, these donations have given Outreach



Burks-Herres

enough supplies to last the whole year. While there are currently two large cabinets filled with school supplies from last year's donation drive, employee Sally Shamp considers this a low amount compared to what Outreach normally has throughout the year. Shamp said on working with Africana studies, "They give generously, and the timing is perfect for back to school." Last year, Cheney Outreach delivered over 150 backpacks full of school supplies to students around the area. The Africana Education Program is hoping for an even bigger turnout this year than in previous ones. The motto for the donation drive is "A day on, not a day off." Burks-Herres believes this motto is used to remind students what King stood for.

The last day to donate school supplies is Jan. 25. There are three collection bins located at the Africana Education Program in Monroe Hall 204, the EWU Bookstore and Cheney Owl Pharmacy. Any number of school supplies will be greatly appreciated, including crayons, backpacks, pencils, erasers, glue sticks, pens, white notebook paper, boxes of tissues, spiral notebooks and new underclothing of various sizes.

"The marvelous new militancy which has engulfed the Negro community must not lead us to a distrust of all white people, for many of our white brothers, as evidenced by their presence here today, have come to realize that their destiny is tied up with our destiny," said King. "They have come to realize that their freedom is inextricably bound to our freedom. We cannot walk alone." EWU Africana education professor Scott Finnie believes that this donation drive has turned

a holiday into a practical change day. "This day helps young people with education, and education is key," said Finnie. "This drive is putting Dr. King's words into action." Cheney Outreach Director Carol Beason continues to write letters to Africana studies about their contributions and what it means to them. "Your support enables Outreach to provide ongoing assistance to our clients, especially in these difficult times," writes Beason.

## Upcoming Events

Eastern's **Delta Sigma Theta** chapter continues their week-long celebration in honor of the sorority being founded 100 years ago. On Jan. 17 the group is holding an Awareness Thursday event in the PUB commons area from 10 a.m. to 2 a.m. to spread awareness about autism. The group is hosting a "Stroll to the alley with the Deltas Friday" event at Rosa's Pizza at 9 p.m. The group is also collecting donations for their canned food drive for the month of January. All perishable items will be donated to Cheney Food Bank.

Associate professor Johnathan Johnson will be the featured reader at the Jan. 17 **Naked Lunch Break** open mic and literary reading event at Riverpoint Campus in the Phase 1 Auditorium. Students interested in reading at the event can have up to three minutes of poetry, fiction or nonfiction work. Sign up begins at 11:30 a.m. and readings will start at noon.

Assistant professor of government Majid Sharifi hosts a presentation titled "**Contemporary Issues in Feminist Research: Can Muslim Women Speak**" as part of the Women's Center Studies Program. Sharifi will discuss how imperial feminism uses the emancipatory messages of feminism to silence local voices and dampen global liberty rather than to liberate others and secure self.

Students, staff, faculty and alumni from EWU will be participating in the annual **Dr. Martin Luther King Unity March** at the INB Performing Arts Center at Spokane on Jan. 21 at 10 a.m.

The string quintet **Sybarite5** is hosting a workshop for students in the Music Building Recital Hall on Jan. 22 from noon to 2 p.m. In addition to the workshop, there will be a mini-concert along with a question and answer forum.

The **Two by Two: Small-scale Ceramic Sculpture Biennial Art gallery** will open from Jan. 24 to March 14. It will feature works that have not been previously displayed in the gallery.

# Damn Dirty Apes sighted on campus

## Eastern improv group prepares for first show in February

By Al Stover  
EAGLE LIFE EDITOR  
easterner.eaglelife@gmail.com

There was a gorilla in the URC waving at students and handing out flyers, which caused a female student to run out of The Roost. The gorilla was actually EWU student Chris Clark in an ape costume. Clark is a member of the Damn Dirty Apes improv group on campus. They are in talks with performing in the Morrison Residence Hall on Feb. 1. The group consists of four members. These members hold practice on Friday nights where they perform various improvisational exercises. Clark got into improv last year as a theater major. He was joined by Alex Kwamina, Marjorie Loosmore and Jared Reyna. The transition of going from reading lines off a script to coming up with an act on the spot forced him to stop editing himself. Freshman Alex Kwamina, another member of the group, has three years of improv experience. For Kwamina, improv went from a recreational activity to a lifestyle.



Photo by Anna Mills

Jared Reyna and Talia Fermantez practice a scene. Reyna has had four years of improv experience while Fermantez has none.

"In life when you have challenges, sometimes you have to figure out the 'no' and go around it or 'I like that idea, let's build on it,'" Kwamina said. Psychology major Marjorie Loosmore said she has gained confidence and connected with others since joining the group. "It challenges me to think harder, find those connections with other characters [and] to establish deeper characters," Loosmore said. "When you do find those

connections with other people, it feels amazing." Although the group has upcoming performances, they allow anyone to come watch and practice on Friday nights. The group also has musicians who come and play musical improv. Sophomore volleyball player and theater major Talia Fermantez came to a practice after being invited by Loosmore. The members gave Fermantez tips such as not turning her back to

the audience, leaving little to no time for dead space and coming up with character names during the exercises. One hour into her first practice, the volleyball player turned into an intoxicated pirate on a plane who thought Loosmore's character said they were in Spain. "It's a creative release," Fermantez said. "Your mind is fast-jumping from thing to thing." In addition to the show in February, the group plans to

work with the EWU Theatre Department to help raise money for senior capstones. They also are in talks with Delta Chi to put on a philanthropy show in the near future as well as planning with GUTS, Gonzaga's improv team, to bring the Upright Citizens Brigade comedy sketch group for a touring show. While the Damn Dirty Apes are set on planning future shows and making their presence a staple on campus, their ultimate goal is to bring

**Damn Dirty Apes**

Practices Fridays from 6-8 p.m. in the PUB room 204.

Performance on Feb. 1 in Morrison Hall.

people together and have fun. "We're just here exploring our boundaries," Clark said. "We're ready to shake things up."

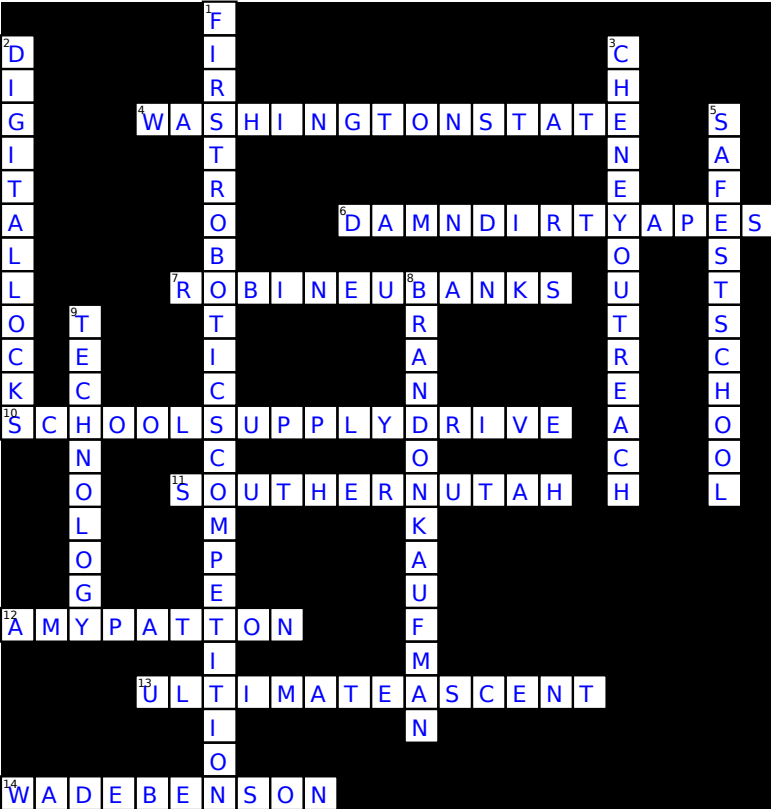
# Computer Science Alumni Endowment hits milestone

EWU MEDIA RELATIONS

Eastern Washington University's Computer Science Alumni Endowment has reached the \$25,000 mark, thanks to a 20-month fundraising effort that reflects the growing interest in science, technology, engineering and math programs. Starting in the spring of 2011, computer science graduates were asked to give \$1,000 back to the department to create an endowment to "pay it forward" for the next computer science student at Eastern. The fundraising effort resulted in 20 gifts or pledges that ranged from

\$100 all the way up to \$30,000, with many current faculty members contributing to the endowment. "It is clear this nation must make STEM a top priority because such an education creates critical thinkers who will become the next generation of innovators who will sustain our economy," said Paul Schimpf, professor of computer science at EWU. "This endowment is an important part of EWU's support for worthy students wishing to pursue a STEM education in the area of computing, which is projected by the U.S. Department of Labor and Industries to be the highest demand STEM field through 2018."

In addition to the \$25,000 raised so far, there is an additional \$81,000 in pledges to be collected. The endowment will create scholarships to partially fund tuition for students pursuing a Bachelor of Science degree in computer science each year, starting in the fall of 2013. The goal is to eventually fully fund tuition for one year for as many computer science students as possible. For information on how to contribute to the Computer Science Alumni Endowment, contact Stuart Steiner at [ssteiner@ewu.edu](mailto:ssteiner@ewu.edu) or 509-359-4296.



Crossword answers for this issue.

@Easterneronline



# Snowstorm sparks debate about student safety and EWU priorities



Illustration by Vania Tauvela

## Act like an adult, make your own decision about whether to go to class

By Kyle Harding  
OPINION EDITOR  
eastern.opinion@gmail.com

Eastern students woke up the morning of Jan. 7 to a healthy dose of snow and high hopes that the first day of winter quarter classes would be cancelled.

While a 7-inch snowfall is significant, it is not extraordinary for the Inland Northwest. Nonetheless, my Facebook timeline filled up with complaints that classes weren't cancelled. "Eastern doesn't care about student safety" seemed to be the prevailing sentiment.

Many people seemed to be upset that while Eastern remained open, Cheney School District was closed. How can the university remain open while the city's elementary, middle and high schools are closed? The answer is simple. Cheney school district is attended by minors. The district is liable for the safety of students riding the school bus. According to Paul Harris, transportation director for Cheney School District, the district's buses cover approximately 3,150 miles per day of mostly rural roads that do not get plowed right away after a snowfall.

I sympathize with students who drive from Spokane in the bad weather. However, I do not think a little bit of snow is cause to cancel classes.



Harding

This is not elementary school. We are not eight years old. If you want to stay home from school, you don't need a "snow day" to be declared by administrators. All you have to do is stay home from school.

It is a fair point that some professors actually do grade on attendance, but how many do on the first day? Even if they did, most would probably make exceptions for those not able to make it to school due to inclement weather.

Whether you are actually paying for your own tuition or not, your college education is costing somebody a lot of money. Why should students who can make it to school in the snow be shortchanged on a class they paid for because students who live in Spokane don't want to drive in the snow? While it is true that the roads were in bad shape, why should the school bend to the whims of one segment of the student population? Many students live in Cheney and can easily make it to school even when there are heavy snows.

If you think it is too dangerous to drive to class, stay home. Even if there is no snow and you just don't feel like going to class, stay home. Nobody is making you go. I have skipped class for many reasons: because I was tired, because I had homework for another class, because of work or because I just did not want to go to class.

The vast majority of students here are adults. We should not expect school administrators to validate our decisions. We do not need school administrators to worry about our safety because we are perfectly capable of worrying about our safety ourselves.

## School should consider safety in bad weather and cancel classes

By Evan Sykes  
GRAPHICS EDITOR  
evan.m.sykes@gmail.com

I woke up at 6:06 a.m. on Jan. 7 to the sound of my phone ringing and assumed it was my son's school calling to tell me that school had been canceled.

Being up late the night prior and seeing the amount of snow that had fallen even since I went to bed a few hours before, cancellation made sense. So, with that mindset, I made a call to the EWU snow line to confirm that they were in line with Cheney School District. I was blown away to hear that not only was school still in session, there wasn't even a delay in operations. Morning classes had not been cancelled.

Many students attend Eastern because it is the 'blue-collar' school in our area. It is where you go when you exhaust your studies at one of the community colleges in the area or where you may go to get a high quality and inexpensive university degree.

I am 35 years old. I have lived in Spokane the majority of my life. I learned to drive in the snow. We even have a Volvo with all-wheel drive and good tires.

But no matter who it is, nobody is really prepared to brave the elements when a major storm hits.



Sykes

I considered staying home on the first day of school, but then I remembered that my wife was required to go. The night before around 7 p.m. she received an email from Summer Huber, her new math instructor. The email stated, "You should know that anyone who misses even one day during the first week of classes will be dropped."

This put us in a bind. Because of the snow, I had to not only find child care for our son, but I also had to brave driving my child to this location as well as getting to school in a reasonable amount of time while keeping my family's well-being in mind.

Mind you, I may be part of only 1 percent of people on campus in this situation. Being a married to a full-time student, as well as living in Cheney with a child that attends school in the Cheney School District and being a full-time student myself, I became blatantly aware that the university does not account for and does not show compassion for my situation.

I know that I am not the only student who has a child in Cheney School District who was affected. Eastern should keep in mind that if the majority of outlying schools are closed, including the public school district in which they reside, they should follow suit.

Student safety should always be the university's top concern. Class should come after that.

## University should take responsibility for student safety on icy walkways

By Kurt Olson  
CHIEF COPY EDITOR  
easterner.copy@gmail.com

If we all managed to make it through the snowy roads and icy streets last Monday to attend class, we were still faced with the treacherous walk across campus.

There have been arguments that Eastern was right in keeping classes open on Jan. 7. Most cite the fact that students are capable of making their own decisions regarding safety. If a student did not feel safe traveling to campus, that student was free to stay home.



Olson

I agree, to a point. We need to make our own decisions. I made the decision that day to wait until the roads became safe for my driving ability. I do not regret waiting. In fact, I feel great about the decision to not risk my life for a syllabus. I got to campus at 2:45 p.m.

The part that truly stunned me was that by the time I arrived on campus, almost seven hours after classes had been in session, the sidewalks and pathways were still covered in ice and snow. My high-traction snow boots felt like bowling shoes walking from Isle Hall to the PUB.

I asked others about how their adventures across campus fared. I heard stories of bruised

elbows and scraped knees. I even heard that one student had broken his arm.

If a university campus continues with classes despite 7 inches of snow, the administration and staff are responsible for finding a way to clear that snow.

So classes are in session despite a large percentage of students commuting from outside of Cheney? OK. We do not want to deprive those who can make it to campus of an education they pay for. But how can it be considered safe to come to school when it isn't even safe to walk on campus?

If EWU wants to continue to have class during heavy snowfall, they need to find a way to keep the pathways clean and the sidewalks free of ice.

Free

WRITE US

easterner.opinion@gmail.com

Speech



# Giving consent means saying 'yes'

By **Lorna Hartman**  
STAFF WRITER  
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Our society is having new conversations about sexual consent and sexual assault.

What is consent? What is it that makes consent confusing? When can someone legally consent or not? When is it rape?



Hartman

“Don’t Be That Guy” is a poster campaign featuring slogans on rape and consent that was rolled out in Edmonton, Canada, in November 2010.

It was launched by anti-rape and health groups in Edmonton that collectively called their partnership Sexual Assault Voices of Edmonton, or SAVE. Edmonton’s campaign was unusual in that it targeted men, not women.

One poster portrays a woman unconscious on a couch and reads, “Just because she isn’t saying ‘no’ ... doesn’t mean she’s saying ‘yes.’” Another poster pictures two men sitting side by side on what appears to be a bed. One man is physically advancing, and the other is pushing him away. The caption reads, “It’s not sex ... when

he changes his mind.” The subtitle is, “Sex without ongoing consent = sexual assault.”

Many people get sexual consent throughout their lives without ever committing rape. Many people prefer a partner who is enthusiastic, and they would be horrified to force themselves on someone who did not want to have sex with them.

Consent for sexual activity is ongoing. Getting consent from a partner for one activity does not mean consent has been given for any other activity. Getting consent for sex once from a person is not consent for more sex with that person. Getting consent to have sex with someone isn’t the same as getting consent for them to have sex with a few friends too.

This doesn’t mean people have to get signed consent forms before having sex. It simply means that someone who would like to have sex with another person should do that person the courtesy of making sure that whatever they do is OK.

“Consent is a gray area. It’s so confusing.” This can be said when someone suspects the answer might be “no” or when consent is in doubt.

She didn’t say “no.” Consent, however, means saying “yes.” There is no law requiring a person to

forcefully say “no” in violation of normal, typical social manners, in which people are indirect and polite about refusing someone. Refusing to say “no” bluntly, instead of politely, is not a crime. Rape, on the other hand, is a crime.

Two large-sample surveys have shed light on this issue. The first is “Repeat Rape and Multiple Offending Among Undetected Rapists,” by David Lisak and Paul M. Miller, published in *Violence and Victims* in 2002. The second is “Reports of Rape Perpetration by Newly Enlisted Male Navy Personnel,” by Stephanie McWhorter et al, also published in *Violence and Victims*, in 2009. These studies provide solid data on rapists that have not been caught or incarcerated.

Lisak and Miller sampled an ethnically diverse group of 1,882 college students with a median age of 26.5, a little older than the average college student. Here are the four questions they asked the students, as reported on the anti-rape blog YesMeansYes.org:

1. Have you ever been in a situation where you tried, but for various reasons did not succeed, in having sexual intercourse with an adult by using or threatening to use physical force (twisting their arm, holding them down, etc.) if they did not cooperate?

2. Have you ever had sexual intercourse with someone, even though they did not want to, because they were too intoxicated (on alcohol or drugs) to resist your sexual advances (e.g., removing their clothes)?

3. Have you ever had sexual intercourse with an adult when they didn’t want to because you used or threatened to use physical force (twisting their arm, holding them down, etc.) if they didn’t cooperate?

4. Have you ever had oral sex with an adult when they didn’t want to because you used or threatened to use physical force (twisting their arm, holding them down, etc.) if they didn’t cooperate?

According to chapter 9A.44 Revised Code of Washington state law, all four of these legally constitute rape or attempted rape. One hundred and twenty men from the study admitted to one or more rapes or attempted rapes, which is just over 6 percent of the total study population.

Of the 120 who admitted to rape or attempted rape, 44 reported only a single assault. The other 76 were repeat offenders. This is where the gray area of “rape by misunderstanding” begins to break down.

These 76 repeat offenders, 63 percent of the

admitted rapists, committed 439 rapes or attempted rapes, averaging 5.8 per person. The median was three, meaning there were some hardcore repeat offenders in this group. This bears repeating: Just 4 percent of all the men surveyed, the 76 men who admitted to more than one attack, committed over 400 rapes and attempted rapes.

It’s unlikely that they had misunderstanding after misunderstanding. According to the study, these are people who deliberately manipulate situations and people in order to rape. This type of rapist represents a very small percentage of men.

This small percentage of men uses excuses of misunderstanding and miscommunication specifically to cover up rape, which is one of the major reasons why no one else should use those excuses. If we set a standard of “yes” and hold rapists responsible for rape rather than blaming women for failing to say “no” rudely, we stop providing cultural cover for this type of serial rapist.

The McWhorter study supported and nearly replicated these results. McWhorter utilized a Sexual Experiences Survey tool that has been in use for more than 20 years to study 1,146 young male participants, of whom 144,

or 13 percent, admitted to rape or attempted rape. Similar to Lisak’s 63 percent of repeat rapists averaging 5.8 attacks each, McWhorter’s sample turned up 71 percent repeat offenders averaging 6.36 assaults each.

In McWhorter’s study, the 144 rapists admitted to a total of 865 rapes or attempted rapes. Ninety-five percent of these attacks were committed by just 8.4 percent of the men in the survey. According to the YesMeansYes.org blog post on this study, “The sometimes-floated notion that acquaintance rape is simply a mistake about consent, is wrong. ... The vast majority of the offenses are being committed by a relatively small group of men, somewhere between 4 percent and 8 percent of the population, who do it again and again and again. That just doesn’t square with the notion of innocent mistake.”

We understand less and have less data about how and why women rape men. Although it happens far less often, it is no less damaging. One thing may seem obvious, but it is worth repeating: Most men and women do not rape.

Millions of men and women get consent for sexual activities every day without becoming confused or interpreting interpersonal signals opportunistically. Most people negotiate consent just fine. That’s good news.

## Through the Eagle’s Eye

What steps do you think could be taken to make schools and other public areas safe from shootings?

Interviews by Kyle Harding. Photos by Teri Simpson.



“You can only do so much [with] bringing in more police officers and having gun laws.”

Aaron Taylor

“A more comprehensive look at psychological aspects of what is going on in our society.”

Brandon Poepping



“I think if teachers went through a gun training class, that would be good.”

Patrick Vedder

“Rather than talking to [people] about what to do if there is a shooter, maybe talk to people about what to do if they feel like being the shooter.”

Kimber McLaughlin



“More patrols of police and better security.”

Marcy Nowak

“If people see someone who seems to be struggling [with mental health], they should try and get them help.”

Madison Cattle



## THE EASTERNER

Serving the community since 1916

### LETTERS

**Kyle Harding**  
OPINION EDITOR  
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### Requirements:

-Letters should be 300 words or less, and typed or handwritten legibly.  
-Include your full name, signature, telephone number and email address for verification.

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We encourage the campus community to submit letters and opinion pieces that conform to the requirements listed above. Opinion articles and letters to the editor do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of The Easterner, its staff members or Eastern Washington University.

## QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Do you think Eastern should charge the same for internship credits as for regular credits?

Send your thoughts to



@schmylesmarding







Photo by Aaron Malmoe

Brandon Kaufman is projected to go anywhere from the fourth round to the sixth round in the NFL draft.

NFL Draft:

continued from the front page

“I feel I’m just ready to play at a new level,” Kaufman said. “[My skills include] my speed along with the ability to catch the ball on a consistent basis.” Kaufman acknowl- edged that being a profes-

sional football player takes dedication. However, he believes he is up to the challenge “It takes hard work. The best are working at all times,” Kaufman said. Padron is excited to see what his future holds and asks for only a chance to prove himself to NFL teams. While Padron said

strength and size is a key aspect to success at the next level, he realizes proper preparation is a must. “If you’re not going to prepare, you’re not going to be successful,” Padron said. “On the field you’ve got to have arm strength, you’ve got to have poise [and] you’ve got to be able to move around a little bit.”

Other Eagle seniors who are pursuing professional football opportunities are receiver Nicholas Edwards, offensive tackle Will Post, defensive end Jerry Ceja, kicker Jimmy Pavel and line- backer Zach Johnson, whose twin brother Matt Johnson was drafted in the fourth round of the 2012 NFL Draft by the Dallas Cowboys.

Track and field begins indoor season

Rejuvenated seniors enter fresh start

By Amye Ellsworth  
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With four current conference cham- pions on his team, head coach Stan Kerr has high expectations for this track and field season. The four champions are senior Brad Wall, sophomore Brad Michael, junior Michael Okoro and senior Steven War- ner. “I’ve got some guys who work hard and are great students,” Kerr said. “It’s exciting to see them finish their ca- reers.” Kerr also mentioned senior Marlyn Anderson as having potential for this season. “He’s been with us [as] one of our great shot putters.” Three of these five men are entering their senior year of competition, which Kerr believes will be an advantage for them.

“Now they’ve been exposed to enough high level competition, and they know why we train the way we do and work as hard as we work,” Kerr said. In terms of higher level competition, Kerr thinks the UW classic and the Van- dal Indoor meets will prove to be the most challenging for these athletes. “The UW classic and the Vandal In- door are both exclusive, rather than in- clusive, meets. You have to get higher standards,” Kerr said. “The fields they accept are much smaller. Those two meets in particular really define the higher talent level in the area.” The Big Sky Championship could also be challenging for the team. This year, the Big Sky Championship will be different with the addition of Universi- ty of North Dakota and Southern Utah. “We’re going from nine full teams to 11 full teams,” Kerr said. “There’s another talented group of athletes who will make what’s already a tough meet even tougher and more exciting.”



Photo by Jade Raymond

Junior Shaun Lemafa, a thrower, trains in the Jim Thorpe Fieldhouse.

However, Kerr remains confident that his team is ready to take on the competition. “The team balance is better and stronger than it ever has been,” Kerr said. “Everybody is contributing, ver- sus maybe 70 percent from this group and 30 from that group. Now we’re in a position where the balance is pretty even.” On the women’s sprint side, senior Whitney Leavitt is ready to give 100 percent. “Everyone wants their last year to be their best year,” she said. “I just have a feeling this is going to be a really good year.” The team competed in the Candy Cane Invitational on Dec. 7 and 8, and Leavitt said her performance level was right where she wanted it. Anderson was not as pleased with his shot put performance. “I have a lot more in me,” he said. As he continues through the rest of the season, Anderson has a few goals set for himself. “Hopefully, [I will] win a couple meets and be top three at conference.

I’m just going to go out there and do what I do,” he said. Although Kerr is excited for the upcoming season, he is also looking ahead to future competitions. “We’re in a cycle right now where we’re going to be peaking for the next two years,” Kerr said. “That’ll be very exciting because we’re scheduled to host the Big Sky Championship out- doors in 2015. We have a terrific group that’ll be seniors at that time.” The next meet of the 2013 season will be the Montana State Open in Bozeman, Mont. on Jan. 25. “Really keeping an eye on your conference competition is more criti- cal. Our focus tends to be more within the conference at this point,” Kerr said. Kerr and Leavitt have their sights set high for this next meet and for the remainder of the season. Kerr aspires for his team to win the Big Sky Indoor Championship in Bozeman, Mont. on Feb. 22 and 23. Leavitt has goals of her own. “I re- ally hope we can all make it to confer- ence,” she said.

Hinson takes on women's tennis  
Interim coach hopes to unite Eagle team for the spring season

By Amye Ellsworth  
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Senior Chelsea Patton has been on the women’s tennis team for three full years and has worked with three different coaches. As Patton and her team enter their spring season, they will face another new coach. Dustin Hinson was hired in early January to serve as the interim head coach for the remainder of the 2012-2013 season. Hinson has plenty of tennis experience to qualify him for the position. “I started playing at a very young age. After college, I coached a little bit here and there,” Hinson said. “Tennis has been a big part of my life.” The coaching opportunity with East- ern happened almost by chance for Hin- son. He talked to the current tennis di- rector Darren Haworth about a year ago, hoping to find a tennis partner. Haworth and Hinson then developed a friendship.

“Then the opportunity came up, and [Haworth] asked if I was interested,” Hin- son said. “I just kind of stumbled into it.” After accepting the position, Hinson developed goals for his team. He would call himself a positive person, and he hopes his own positivity will transfer to his team. Hinson also has goals for his team as they progress through the season. “I’d defi- nitely like to see us make it to the confer- ence tournament in California this year,” Hinson said of his other goal. The top six teams in the conference qualify for the tournament. Patton has already noticed Hinson’s positive nature. “I haven’t gotten to know him very long, but he’s really nice,” she said. Patton also thought Hinson had good potential as a coach. “For a lot of coaches, it’s hard to find the balance of being a good motivator but not being so strict,” Patton said. “I think he’s a good balance at that.” Both Patton and Hinson understand

the importance of a united team. Patton hopes the frequent changes in coaching will turn into an advantage for the team in terms of bonding together. “It’s been kind of crazy. It really tests the team, but you get through it together,” Patton said. Hinson agreed that a united team is very important. “Each individual is important to make the team whole. Even though tennis, in a way, is an individual sport, you win as a team,” he said. However, Patton admits that the road has not always been smooth. “I think it’s definitely hard because we are halfway through this year. It’s kind of abrupt,” she said. Although Hinson is currently the interim head coach, he does hope to make the switch to full time. “That’s my goal and my hope,” he said. The women’s tennis team will begin their spring season Jan. 19 in Pullman, Wash.

Nine shots of Padron

A Q&A with the Eagle QB

- Q:

Why are you declaring for the NFL draft?
- A:

I feel like I can compete with this year’s class and throw with the best of them. I feel like I’m prepared and will be prepared for my pro day and for any try out that comes. I feel like if I just get a shot I can make a team. That’s all I can ask for is to get that shot. I feel like now is the best time.
- Q:

Where are you training?
- A:

I’m actually training in Frisco, [Texas] where we should’ve been [for the national championship]. This one is close to home with me. I live with my family and just commute every morning for it.
- Q:

Are you still taking classes?
- A:

I’m taking this quarter off and then plan to get my degree from SMU. It’ll be less classes that I have to take from SMU than at Eastern. At the end of my ca- reer I’ll go back and graduate whenever that is and get my degree and go from there.
- Q:

What does it take to be a quarterback in the NFL?
- A:

The preparation is the biggest, I believe. If you’re not going to prepare you’re not going to be successful: just preparing your mind and taking all these tests and going through all these rigorous workouts. That’s the off-the-field stuff. And then on the field you got to have arm strength. You got to have poise. You got to be able to move around a little bit. So just trying to be as skilled as possible at all those different things. Being fundamentally sound [is important] as well. [I have to make] sure the ball is coming off my hand and I’m spinning right for pro day.
- Q:

Where will you have your pro day?:
- A:

I might come back up [to Eastern] and throw. I’m still trying to decide on an agent and try to figure out what would be best for me — whether it’s stay down here and throw where I’ve been training or to [East- ern] for a couple days and throw. So [I’m] just trying to figure that out [and] what would be best for me.
- Q:

What have your family and friends said about your decision to declare for the NFL draft?
- A:

They’re all excited for me. Everybody that is close to me has known the ultimate goal for me was to be a professional quarterback. I’ve worked my butt off from middle school to high school to make that dream come true, and they trust that I’m going to put that effort into it. They all believe in me. The good thing about being down here and training in Frisco, [Texas], is that I do have my family and peo- ple behind me that believe in me and want to see me succeed, and I’m just blessed to have a good family and a quality group of friends.
- Q:

What would you say your biggest strengths at quarterback are?
- A:

I think the biggest thing is being able to move the ball down the field. The scouts they like the big arm. Ob- viously I’m not the biggest arm, but I do trust my arm strength and I get the ball down the field 55-60 yards in the air and push the ball and stress the defense. Some of the things they look into is move around in the pocket a little bit, create plays with your feet, get- ting out of the pocket and dumping it off to a run- ning back or a receiver and picking up a third down conversion with your feet. So [I’m] just trying to be physically fit and mentally prepared. Whatever they throw at me I’ll be able to do it pretty efficiently.
- Q:

What do you feel like you need to work on?
- A:

My feet [are] probably the biggest thing I need to work on. My throwing mechanics are progressively getting better with the more coaching that I get and the more reps I get throwing the ball and figuring out the timing with different receivers. Everybody thinks quarterbacks just throw with their arm and it’s not that hard to do but your feet have to be right first. They got to be lined up to where you’re throwing. [You focus on] all those little things that you don’t really see and that people don’t really pay much at- tention to that these scouts will pay attention to. [I] try to get all that stuff corrected and make it more second nature. Your body just understands that it has to move this way and be in a sense of urgency but calm and controlled and not in a hurry.
- Q:

What is your dream team you would play for and why:
- A:

I have always been a big Dallas Cowboys fan. It would be awesome to play for them. But there’s 32 teams in the NFL, and if I’m blessed and fortunate enough to sign with one of them then that’s all I can ask for — to be given a chance. I’m not picky.

Interview by Josh Friesen





Photo by Evan Sykes

Draped in their all-red uniforms, the Eagles burst out onto The Inferno before the semifinal game against Sam Houston State. It would be the final game of the 2012 season.

# Eagles register another successful year

## Eastern football caps off the season with a memorable postseason run

By Josh Friesen  
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At the bare minimum, the 2012 Eastern football team proved they have character.

Down 35-0 at halftime of the Football Championship Subdivision semifinal game against the Sam Houston State Bearkats on Dec. 15, the Eagles refused to give in to the presumed inevitability of a blowout loss one game away from playing for a second national championship in three years.

“Usually you’re going to see one of two things happen in a locker room at 35-nothing. You’re going to see guys screaming at each other and pointing fingers or you’re going to see guys put their heads down [thinking] it’s over,” head coach Beau Baldwin said. “Neither of those things were occurring to our guys.”

Redshirt freshman Vernon Adams took over for Kyle Padron at quarterback late in the first half. As the team gathered in the locker room after being seemingly down for the count, Adams said no one thought getting back in the game was out of reach.

“It was funny because none of us were panicking at all,” Adams said. “We all looked at each other and said, ‘We’re going to be fine. We just got to have a better half.’”

Baldwin was impressed by the resiliency his team showed in the face of adversity.

“We just talked about the idea, ‘Don’t get overwhelmed by the scoreboard. Just take it a series at a time, a score at a time, and next thing you know we can get back into this thing,’” Baldwin said. “We believed it and went out and did it.”

Eastern entered the second half with a faster tempo and scored 28 unanswered points, completely taking Sam Houston State by surprise. The two embattled teams traded ferocious punches, but the Bearkats delivered the final knockout blow and left Roos Field with a victory and the chance to play for the national title.

Though his team ultimately fell short to Sam

Houston State 45-42, Baldwin could not have been more pleased of what the Eagles accomplished in 2012. He led his team to an 11-win campaign, secured a share of the Big Sky Conference title, had two quarterbacks tie the school record for most touchdown passes in a game and saw wide receiver Brandon Kaufman break the FCS record for the most receiving yards in a season.

“Those are some things that I look back on,” Baldwin said. “I’m just really proud ... of our players for just how often they [responded] to things that didn’t go perfect.”

The season began with a win over Football Bowl Subdivision school Idaho, followed by a close loss against another FBS school, Washington State. Padron, who recently declared for the NFL draft, started both games and said that was when the team began to come together as a group.

“I think throughout those first games we learned a lot about ourselves,” he said. “We won a lot of close games and that speaks a lot about the character and the will to win that this team has.”

After the first two games, the Eagles opened Big Sky play with a win at Weber State. The game was quarterback Vernon Adams’ first start. The decision to start the redshirt freshman began Baldwin’s strategy of rotating Adams and Padron in and out at various points in games. The tactic paid off as the strengths of both quarterbacks complimented each other.

“It made things tougher on the defense,” Padron said. “I think it helped the offense and helped ignite the team [and provided] a little bit of a spark.”

Including the win at Weber State, the Eagles won 10 of their next 11 games, with their lone

stumble in that stretch coming in a three-point loss to Southern Utah. The Eagles captured the second overall seed in the FCS playoffs and began the postseason with a win against Wagner in the first round of tournament play.

While Adams started most of the games in the regular season, a 94-yard game-winning drive engineered by Padron in the regular season finale against Portland State prompted the coaching staff to start Padron in all three playoff games. He showcased his ability in a six-touchdown effort in the quarterfinal game against Illinois State.

“Brandon [Kaufman] made some awesome catches for me and some of the other guys as well,” Padron said. “We made it difficult on [Illinois State] and obviously the guys around me made plays and that’s how I was able to put up those numbers.”

Padron’s offensive display tied the school record for the most touchdown passes in a game, a feat that was repeated by Adams in the semifinal heartbreaker against Sam Houston State. The semifinal was a record-breaking effort for Kaufman, who also has decided to chase his professional football dream and declare for the NFL draft. The record was bittersweet for the wideout.

“I would’ve definitely given that [back] to get that last ‘W,’” Kaufman said. “But ... it feels good.”

Kaufman praised Eastern’s football program and attributed his success to the coaching staff.

“This is the best place I’ve ever been,” he said. “Every single thing was a joy and I can’t ask for anything more. I’m sure I could still give back to [the coaches] in more ways than I have so far.”

"I'm going to see that scoreboard 42-45 and I'm going to remember how close we were."

Vernon Adams

Now that the season is over, the offseason has begun. The players hit the weight room and coaches evaluate the team and make adjustments for the following season.

“You always want to find and make adjustments,” Baldwin said. “We had a very explosive team. We had a fast team. There were a lot of things we did well this year. But you still have to find some of the weaknesses that showed.”

Equally important is the recruiting process. While talented players are attracted by things like Eastern’s red turf or winning records, what keeps high school seniors interested, according to Baldwin, is the positive atmosphere the team projects.

“The number-one seller still comes down to our players,” Baldwin said. “When high school seniors come in and they’re around our players, they love the feel of it and want to be a part of it.”

Baldwin also credits the appeal of Eastern to the growing support of the football program. According to Baldwin, the support of the community in 2012 was beyond what it has ever been.

“I would like to add a total thank you to the student body,” Baldwin said. “I’ve been here since 2003, with the exception of one year, and this is the most amazing student section we’ve had.”

And so ends another Eagle football season. It was a journey filled with highs and lows, with triumph and anguish. Yet, it was not Adams’ objective to have a season full of remarkable plays and determined grit. For the quarterback, the team fell just short of the core goal: to win a national championship. Adams is using the final score of the semifinal loss as a catalyst for the future.

“That scoreboard, 42-45, that’s my motivation. I’m going to hold that picture up in my locker and I’m going to see that scoreboard 42-45 and I’m going to remember how close we were,” Adams said. “I’m just going to remind my teammates, ‘You all remember how close we were? Let’s not fall short anymore. Let’s go get it.’”

# Eagle men stung by Hornets

## Eastern sluggish in second half, falls to Sacramento State 60-53

By Kelly Manalo and Bryan King  
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The Sacramento State Hornets used a key 15-0 run in the early second half to come back and beat Eastern 60-53.

Eastern continued to struggle this season by shooting under 44 percent, making their record 4-12 overall and 2-4 in the Big Sky Conference. After shooting 52 percent from the field in the first half, they went only 8-28 in the second half, totaling 28.6 percent for the whole game.

“In the first half we had good looks that went in. In the second half we had good looks that didn’t go in and it evened out,” said coach Jim Hayford.

Senior guard Kevin Winford shot 5-15 for the game, totaling a team high of 12 points, and had six assists in his 39 minutes of playing time.

“[Sacramento State] locked in defensively in the second half,” Winford said. “I give them credit.”

The Hornets executed well in the second half and the Eagles could not punch back, according to Winford.

Plays were carried out according to plan but the shots were not making it through, according to Hayford.

Eastern shot 16.7 percent from 3-point territory in the second half, compared to 50 percent in the first half. They shot 7-22 overall from behind the line.

Eastern started the game strong, taking a 20-8 lead with about eight minutes remaining in the first half.

Despite the hot start where they led the Hornets 33-23 going into halftime, Eastern froze at the start of the second half. Sacramento State went on a 20-8 run within the first 10 minutes, giving them a two-point edge over the Eagles.

The score was 53-52 with 2:21 left in the game.

In the last two minutes the Hornets closed out the game to beat the Eagles 60-53.

Lead scorers were Winford with 12 points, sophomore forward Martin Seiferth and freshman forward Venky Jois with 10 points. Jois was also the leader in rebounds with seven.

Sophomore guard Parker Kelly was 2-4 from three. He fouled out with 8:20 left in the second half, finishing with eight points.

Sacramento State shot overall 9-10 for free throws, with no free throw attempts in the first half.

In the first half Sacramento State made 39.3 percent of their shots, compared to the second half when they made 48.1 percent of their shots. The Hornets struggled with 3-pointers, shooting 3-13.

Key players for the Hornets were senior forward John Dickson with 10 rebounds and leading scorers Mikh McKinney and Konner Veteto with 12 points each.

With 16:35 left in the game Winford made a layup putting the Eagles up 37-29. Then at 16:26 the Hornets’ senior center Veteto began a 15-0 run for the Hornets and gained the lead 44-37. Eastern failed to score until Winford hit a 3-pointer with 9:58 left in the game.

“I thought our team showed great character to fight back the last couple minutes. I give [Sacramento State] credit. They made shots and we didn’t,” said Hayford.



Photo by Aaron Malmoe

Martin Seiferth has emerged as a top forward in the conference. He leads the Big Sky in shooting percentage with .649 and is ranked third with 1.8 blocks per game.



News in brief:



Okoro



Tauvela

Michael Okoro and Vania Tauvela both earned Big Sky Conference qualifying marks at the UW Indoor Preview in Seattle on Jan 12. Both will now compete in the Big Sky Indoor Track and Field Championship in Bozeman, Mont., on Feb 22 and 23. Okoro, a junior, won the 400 meters with a time of 48.98. Tauvela, a red-shirt junior, qualified in the weight throw with a distance of 54-4 3/4. Freshman pole vaulter Anandae Clark finished with a height of 12-6 1/4, her season high. She finished first in the competition's pole vault. She already met the qualifying mark at the Candy Cane Invitational on Dec. 7 and 8.

Freshman Venky Jois of the men's basketball team and junior Aubrey Ashenfelter of the women's basketball team earned the Scholar-Athlete award for the month of January. Jois, a native of Australia, is averaging 13.2 points, 1.6 blocked shots, one steal and 9.3 rebounds per game so far this season. He has a shooting percentage of .682. Ashenfelter is averaging 8.5 points, 3.9 rebounds and 2.9 assists this season while accumulating 17 total steals. She has a shooting percentage of .588.

Upcoming:

The Eastern men's basketball team will travel to take on North Dakota on Jan. 17. Tipoff is scheduled for 5 p.m. They will then travel to take on Northern Colorado on Jan. 19. Tipoff is scheduled for 6:05 p.m.

The Eastern women's basketball team play host to to North Dakota on Jan. 17 at 6:05 p.m. They will also host Northern Colorado on Jan. 19 at 2:05 p.m. Both games will be at Reese Court in Cheney. On Jan. 21, the Eagle women travel to Portland State. Tipoff is at 7:30 p.m.

The Eagle men's tennis team play will kick off the indoor season against both Idaho at 10 a.m. and Whitworth at 5 p.m. on Jan. 20. The matches will be held in the Jim Thorpe Fieldhouse in Cheney.

The Eagle women's tennis team will travel to Pullman, Wash., to take on Wyoming on Jan. 19. The match is scheduled for 6 p.m.



Photo by Dylan Paulus

Junior guard Aubrey Ashenfelter drives to the basket. Ashenfelter is third on the team with 8.5 points a game and has started all 15 games for the Eagles.

# Eastern women falter after hot start

After a 7-5 start, including a five-game winning streak, the Eagles have dropped three straight

By Peter Sowards  
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Eagles' women's basketball coach Wendy Schuller was confident in her team's ability to play away from Reese Court after a challenging non-conference schedule to start the season littered with road contests against robust opponents.

Unfortunately, Schuller's confidence went unrewarded as her team suffered back-to-back lopsided losses at Northern Arizona and Sacramento State on Jan. 10 and 12, falling to 3-3 in Big Sky play and 7-8 overall.

EWU allowed Northern Arizona to shoot 51.7 percent from the field in an 83-68 defeat, including a blistering 63.0 percent clip in the second half. The Lumberjacks came into the game winning just two of their previous 12 games.

Schuller's comments after the game on her team's energy were con-

demning. "I was really disappointed with our effort tonight on both ends of the floor," Schuller said. "Coming off a loss where we didn't play great, you'd expect to see this team come out with some fight. You'd expect them to play hard and play with some heart. But I don't think we did that, and it's really disappointing, because that is just not who we are."

Northern Arizona guard and Big Sky Conference leading scorer Amy Patton paced the Lumberjacks with 23 points and 11 rebounds, playing all of the game's 40 minutes. EWU's Hayley Hodgins, a redshirt freshman, scored a career-high 16 points off the bench and added three rebounds, two assists and two steals. Sophomore Melissa Williams also set a career-high in points, scoring 13 and grabbing 11 rebounds en route to her first ever double-double.

Two days later at Sacramento State, the Eagles met a similar fate, falling 85-70. However, Schuller's confidence

in the team's effort that was lost in Arizona had been regained. "I was a lot happier with our effort tonight than what we saw at Northern Arizona," Schuller said. "We played hard and went after more balls, but you can't shoot 31 percent and expect to win on somebody else's floor."

"In the end, it really comes down to who can knock down shots."

Knocking down shots is something the Eagles did not do well against the Hornets, hting just 27 of their 70 field goal attempts, a 38.6 percent mark. A six-minute scoreless stretch to start the second half allowed Sacramento State to score 11 straight points and nurse a comfortable lead until the final buzzer.

Melissa Williams had her second double-double in as many games, notching 10 points and a team-high 11 rebounds. Williams was one of five Eagles who scored in double figures.

Sacramento State took advantage of 20 EWU turnovers, converting

them into 29 points and scoring 23 fast-break points. The Hornets also made the most of their opportunities at the free-throw line, making 13 of 15 attempts. Conversely, EWU was just 9-14.

EWU will look to get back to .500 as they return home to face North Dakota on Jan. 17. The Fighting Sioux own an analogous 7-8 record after losing two straight games at home.

As the Eagles return home to Cheney, Schuller implored EWU students to come to Reese Court and watch their team play. "This is your team," she said. "This is your school and your team and this is what you should be taking pride in. We play hard for Eastern and for them. Hopefully they know that."

Schuller has been stuck at win No. 149 since the Eagles beat Montana on Jan. 3. The Eagles' game against North Dakota will be her fourth try going for her 150th win.

# Veteran volleyball coach returns to Eastern

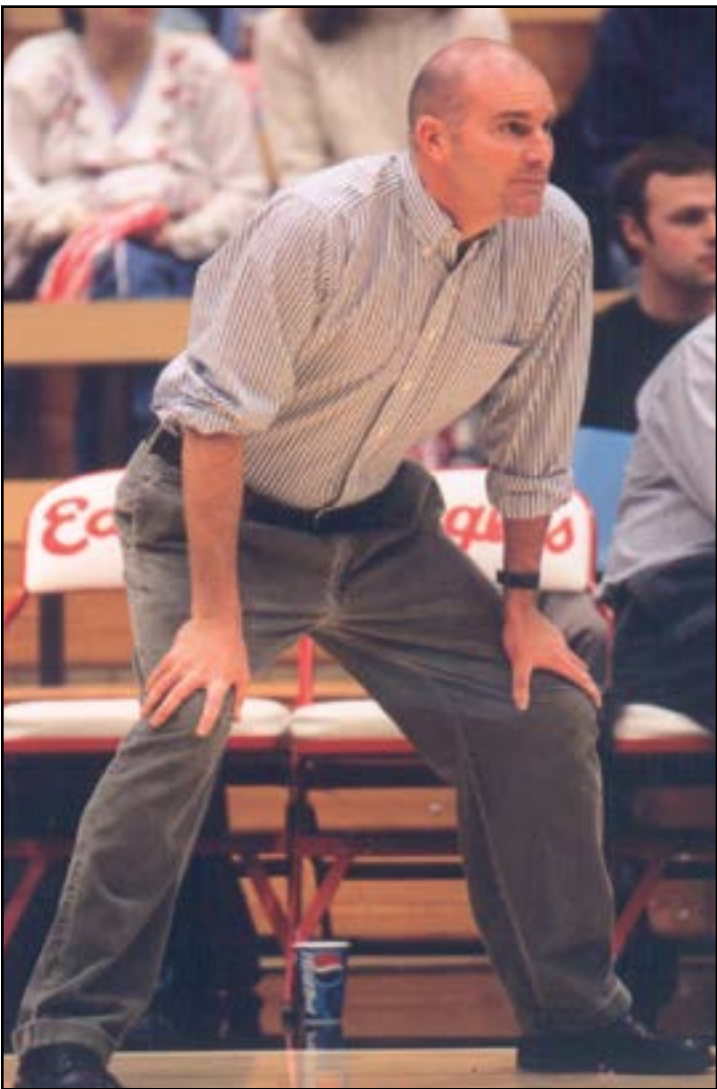


Photo courtesy of EWU Sports Information  
Wade Benson replaces interim head coach Lisa Westlake, who had taken the reigns of the volleyball team after former head coach Myles Kidd stepped down in August.

## After six years away, Benson brings experience to Eagle squad

By Kelly Manalo  
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Wade Benson returned to EWU as the new head coach for the volleyball team, replacing interim head coach Lisa Westlake.

Benson was a part of the coaching staff from 1996 to 2006 as head coach for his last seven years. He guided the volleyball team to the Big Sky Conference Finals for five consecutive seasons.

"Historically, he's a winner. He's won it everywhere he's been, at an extreme high level and he's won previous years in the conference," said director of athletics Bill Chaves.

According to Chaves, hiring Benson was a unique situation since he had previously coached for Eastern.

"The ability to bring someone back into the fold that has been one of the most successful coaches in Big Sky history was extremely attractive for us," said Chaves.

Benson originally started at Eastern as an assistant coach to the current senior woman administrator Pamela Parks in 1996.

"Absolute credit goes to Pam Parks. She oversaw the search [for finding Benson]," said Chaves.

"I always kept an eye on Eastern from being a part of it early on. I saw that it had a very tough year and that [the head coaching position] opened up. I thought, 'We can get that program up and running. Let's go do it,'" said Benson.

Benson believes in developing a great sense of pride in the school. "When you care about the name you are playing for you're going to put out a great effort," he said. "You're going to be the best that you can be and not just for yourself, but also for your family, your school, your coaches, everybody, for each other and the team."

The team has eight months until the start of the season to get to know each other, understand what the expectations are and learn the system, according to Benson.

At this stage, Benson thinks this is a real trial period for both the players and staff. "I just want to make sure it's a good fit because I want the kids to be happy and I want to be happy," he said.

"[My goal is] to get our systems in place and to have an understanding of the way we do things in every aspect," Benson said.

Having an understanding of one another and making guidelines clear in every aspect is important to Benson. "How we conduct ourselves on the court, off the court, really getting to know the inner workings of the coach-player relationship, that's pretty big. Making sure things fit for each other," Benson said.

According to Benson, his biggest job is making sure there is good team unity, understanding and proper respect for each other. "Once you get that going on, then you can be successful," Benson said.

"I could have the best athletes in the world, but if I don't have [team unity], then we will reach less than we should. Its not just about the athlete, its more about the connection and how they learn off you," Benson said.

Winning a championship is hard and the team that wins is usually the most unified team, not the best team on paper, according to Benson.

Benson signed a three-year contract and started his position Jan. 7th on the first day of winter quarter.

Don't miss the game on Saturday, January 19 at 2:05 p.m. against Northern Colorado.

GO EAGS!